



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, by 1776 nearly 300,000 Irish nationals had emigrated to the American colonies and played a crucial role in America's War for Independence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Irish first came to Spanish "*La Florida*" in the 1500s - first as missionaries and mercenary soldiers and then as planters, traders, businessmen, doctors and administrators; and

**WHEREAS**, Fr. Richard Arthur, an Irish-born priest from Limerick who was appointed parish priest for St. Augustine in 1597 and ecclesiastical judge of "*La Florida*," established the first public school in America and opened it to both boys and girls of all races; and

**WHEREAS**, Andrew Jackson, whose family came from Country Antrim, served as Florida's military governor following its acquisition by the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Irish Americans since America's inception, have provided and continue to provide leadership and service to this nation's political, business and religious establishments; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper to celebrate the rich culture heritage and many valuable contributions of Irish Americans.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Greg Ross, Mayor of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, and the City Commission, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March, 2024 as

***"IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"***

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, to be affixed on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

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Greg Ross, Mayor